

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 31, 2012



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Call Out for Railroad Museum Volunteers This Fall!

Sign Ups Open Now for Volunteer Class at America's Most Popular Railroad Museum

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento State Historic Park (SHP) are now recruiting adults (18 or older) who are interested in volunteering this fall to help communicate the West's fascinating heritage of railroading and the California Gold Rush. The volunteer orientation will begin on Monday, October 8, but interested volunteers must apply and be screened in advance. Volunteer applications are being accepted now through Wednesday, September 19. Community members are encouraged to get involved in this worthwhile program that offers an opportunity to support the local community while learning more about California's rich history, meeting new people and developing friendships with those who share similar interests.

Anyone who has ever visited the California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento SHP has undoubtedly crossed paths with a docent. Dressed in railroad garb or other period attire, these trained volunteers answer questions and discuss history with guests. In fact, approximately 600 men and women volunteer for the California State Railroad Museum's programs each year—for weekend steam train operations, track construction, restoration and maintenance, even clerical work. Since the Museum's 1976 inception, volunteers have contributed more than two million hours of service.

As part of their training, candidates are encouraged to consider participating in one or more Museum programs. For example, volunteers may choose to serve as docents and Museum tour guides; participate in hands-on, interactive educational programs for school groups; become involved with train operations on the Sacramento Southern Railroad; or orient visitors at Old Sacramento State Historic Park's historic Eagle Theatre and Huntington & Hopkins Hardware Store. Volunteer training represents a commitment of 84 volunteer hours annually, but the hours are flexible and the rewards tremendous.

A background in history is not required. In fact, most of the volunteers began with little knowledge of railroads or the Gold Rush. As they become more familiar with the Museum's varied and frequent programs, many volunteers take on additional responsibilities, such as conducting research or giving talks to community organizations about the Museum. Perks for active volunteers include free parking while on duty, invitation to an annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet, complimentary Museum membership and the chance to meet new and interesting people.

Interested volunteers are encouraged to download an application at www.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict or contact the Museum's Volunteer Training Coordinator at (916) 324-7593.

About the California State Railroad Museum

Operated by California State Parks with financial assistance from the non-profit California State Railroad Museum Foundation, the California State Railroad Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Widely regarded as North America's finest and most popular railroad museum, the complex of facilities includes the 100,000-square foot Railroad History Museum plus the reconstructed Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station and Freight Depot, 1849 Eagle Theatre, and Big Four and Dingley Spice Mill commercial buildings in Old Sacramento. For 24-hour information, visit www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org or call (916) 445-6645.

For More, Visit www.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict